

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 13 has been cancelled, and claims 10, 14, 22 and 23 have been amended. Thus, claims 10-12, 14-17 and 20-27 are now active in the application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Initially, applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the kind indication in items 12 and 13 on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 13, 14, 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as well as the indication that claims 16, 17, 20 and 21 are allowed.

In order to expedite allowance of the claims, the allowable claim 13 has been canceled and the limitations thereof have been added into the independent claim 10. Claim 14 has correspondingly been amended to depend directly from claim 10. Therefore, claim 10, as well as claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 16, 17, 20 and 21 are also allowable in view of the Examiner's indication of allowed claims.

Regarding claim 22, this claim has been amended to clarify the relationship between the interlocking lock mechanism, the lid, the power switch and the locking device.

In particular, in items 2-11 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 10-12 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakatsuki (U.S. 4,986,618); and claims 15 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakatsuki. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and are believed to be clearly inapplicable to the claims as now presented, for the following reasons.

With exemplary reference to the drawing figures, claim 22 now sets forth an information terminal comprising: a case 1 having a memory device accommodating section 75 for accommodating a detachable memory device 77; a power switch 59 mounted to the case 1 for enabling at least one of powering the information terminal on and powering the information terminal off; a locking device 13 mounted to the case and being changeable, by a lock manipulation part 12, between a locked state in which the locking device 13 prevents the power

switch 59 from being operated, and an unlocked state in which the locking device 13 allows the power switch 59 to be operated; a lid 5, movable between an open state (e.g. see Fig. 2) and a closed state (e.g. see Fig. 1), for covering the memory device accommodating section 75 and preventing removal of the detachable memory device 77 from the memory device accommodating section 75 when in the closed state; and an interlocking lock mechanism operably coupled to both the locking device 13 and the lid 5 such that, upon changing of the locking device 13 to the locked state when the lid 5 is in the closed state, the lid 5 is locked in the closed state and the power switch 59 is prevented from being operated, and such that upon changing of the locking device 13 to the unlocked state when the lid 5 is in the closed state, the lid 5 can be opened to the open state and the power switch 59 can be operated.

Thus, as clearly recited in claim 22, changing of the locking device into its locked state causes both the lid 5 to be locked in the closed state and the power switch 59 to be prevented from being operated. Likewise, claim 22 requires that the interlocking lock mechanism be operably coupled to both the locking device 13 and the lid 5 such that, when the locking device is changed to its unlocked state, the lid is able to be opened to its open state and the power switch is able to be operated.

In contrast to the present invention of claim 22, the Wakatsuki patent discloses a case having a memory device section for accommodating a detachable memory device 7, and a locking device 38 for locking a lid 5 in a closed state to prevent removal of the memory device 7. The Examiner has taken the position that the Wakatsuki patent inherently has a power switch mounted to the case for powering the information terminal on and off. However, in the Wakatsuki device, there is no interconnection (i.e. no interlocking lock mechanism) that is operably coupled to both the locking device 38 and the lid 5 in such a manner that, upon changing of the locking device 38 to the locked state when the lid 5 is in the closed state, the lid is locked in the closed state and the power switch is prevented from being operated. In other words, in the Wakatsuki device, the locking device 38 and the power switch are operated independently, and there is no interlocking lock mechanism to cause both the lid 5 to be locked

in the closed state and the power switch to be prevented from being operated, when the locking device 38 is changed to its locked state, as required by claim 22.

Thus, because of this clear difference between the present invention as recited in claim 22 and the Wakatsuki patent, it is believed apparent that claim 22 is not anticipated by the Wakatsuki patent. Furthermore, there is no clearly no teaching or suggestion in the Wakatsuki patent that would have motivated a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Wakatsui device in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention of claim 22. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22, as well as claims 23-27 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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